



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,418	02/01/2001	Richard J. Caldwell	PHGB000010	8507

24737 7590 05/24/2004

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
P.O. BOX 3001
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

MILLS, DONALD L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2662

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/773,418

Applicant(s)

CALDWELL ET AL.

Examiner

Donald L Mills

Art Unit

2662

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schroderus et al. (US 5,822,682), hereinafter referred to as Schroderus, in view of Kleider et al. (US6,084,919), hereinafter referred to as Kleider.

Regarding claims 1, 3, and 7, Schroderus discloses communicating on a direct mode channel, which comprises *a controller and a plurality of stations* (Referring to Figures 1 and 2, controller **403** and **DMRU1**, **DMRU2**, **DMRU3**, and **DMRU4**,) *each station comprising transmission and reception circuitry* (Referring to Figure 2, Tx/Rx **401**,) *in which peer-to-peer communication between stations takes place in time slots allocated by the controller* (Referring to Figure 2, direct mode communication, peer-to-peer, between subscriber stations using an appropriate time slot determined by controller **403**. See column 8, lines 1-4.) And, *a receiving station having means for storing information relating to a transmission parameter of each of the others of the plurality of stations* (Referring to Figure 2, the radio unit **400** has a quality monitoring means **409** responsive to the transmission transmitted by other radio units **DMRU1**, **DMRU3** and **DMRU4** for monitoring **204** the quality of transmissions transmitted by the other radio units. See column 8, lines 21-25.) Schroderus does not disclose *means for adjusting the*

Art Unit: 2662

receiver circuitry prior to reception of a signal from a transmitting station depending on the stored information relating to the transmission parameter of the transmitting station.

Kleider teaches a communication unit having spectral adaptability with a receive unit 16 which comprises a signal memory 37, for storing the received signal, and a spectrum analyzer/mode estimator (SAME) 34 (See column 5, lines 21-25.) The SAME 34 is used to dynamically adjust receive parameters, such as channel detection thresholds in a multi-channel receiver embodiment before the next signal is received, based upon the profile of the received signal spectrum (See column 5, lines 39-42.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the spectral adaptability of Kleider in the direct mode communication system of Schroderus. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so in order to reduce the effects of interference from another system on a data signal or existing signals utilized by multiple subscribers during direct communication.

Regarding claims 5 and 9, the primary reference further teaches *the transmission parameter as the signal strength of signals from the transmitting station* (Referring to Figures 1 and 2, **DMRU2** monitors the transmit power of the other radio units on the basis of their transmission. See column 8, lines 21-28.)

3. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schroderus et al. (US 5,822,682), hereinafter referred to as Schroderus, in view of Kleider et al. (US6,084,919), hereinafter referred to as Kleider, further in view of Fischer (US 5,371,734).

Art Unit: 2662

Regarding claims 2, 6, and 10 as explained above in the rejection statement of claim 1, Schroderus and Kleider disclose all of the claim limitations of claim 1 (parent claim). Schroderus does not disclose *storing a plurality of values for each transmission parameter relating to signals received at different times and operating on a plurality of these values to compensate for drift in the value of the transmission parameter.*

Fischer teaches that each remote communicator must repeatedly measure the time, from receipt of the information frame until the interval of interest, using the appropriate count of BTIs from the body of the information in order to resynchronize the internal clock to compensate for drift (See column 28, lines 3-15 and 28-32.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the synchronization method of Fischer in the system of Schroderus. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so in order to compensate for drift in direct mode communication as taught by Fischer (See column 28, lines 11-15.)

Regarding claims 4 and 8 as explained above in the rejection statement of claims 3 and 7; Schroderus and Kleider disclose all of the claim limitations of claims 3 and 7 (parent claims). Schroderus does not disclose the *transmission parameter as the frequency offset of signals from the transmitting station.*

Fischer teaches that each remote communicator must repeatedly measure the time, from receipt of the information frame until the interval of interest (frequency offset), using the appropriate count of BTIs from the body of the information in order to resynchronize the internal clock to compensate for drift (See column 28, lines 3-15 and 28-32.)

Art Unit: 2662

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the synchronization method of Fischer in the system of Schroderus. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so in order to compensate for drift in direct mode communication as taught by Fischer (See column 28, lines 11-15.)

Conclusion

4. Applicant is advised that should claim 2 be found allowable, claims 6 and 10 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald L Mills whose telephone number is 703-305-7869. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on 703-305-4744. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2662

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Donald L Mills

DLM

May 4, 2004


JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER